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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013

Third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013 (A/68/380). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information, concluding with written responses received on 27 September 2013.

2. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the additional requirements arising as a result of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session are estimated at $91,100, of which $29,400 relates to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and $61,700 to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The additional requirements relate to (a) the extension of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2014 (resolution 2013/15); (b) the holding of a one-day special meeting of the Council on an annual basis to consider international cooperation in tax matters (resolution 2013/24); and (c) the issuance of a report on the ongoing consultations between the Secretary-General and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to explore the implications of the proposed consolidation of some United Nations entities dedicated to research, training and knowledge services, including the Institute (resolution 2013/47).

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3. As indicated in paragraphs 5 to 11 of the report of the Secretary-General, under the terms of paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of resolution 2013/15, an estimated $17,900 would be required to support the activities of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, comprising (a) $15,900 for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for members of the Advisory Group to undertake consultative missions to Haiti and Washington, D.C., in 2014; and (b) $2,000 for meeting support service requirements in Haiti. These requirements are proposed to be met from within the provisions made under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015.

4. Concerning the consideration by the Council of international cooperation in tax matters, as indicated in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report of the Secretary-General, under the terms of paragraph 6 of resolution 2013/24, the one-day annual special meeting of the Council would comprise two three-hour meetings with interpretation in all six official languages, constituting an addition to the meeting-servicing workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of $21,900 for meeting-servicing for each year starting in 2014, or $43,800 for the biennium 2014-2015, which are proposed to be met from within the provisions made under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

5. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 17 of the report that he expects the processing of the report requested under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 2013/45 on his ongoing consultations with the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one document of 5,000 words, to be issued in all six official languages in 2013. This would entail additional conference servicing requirements in the amount of $29,400 which are expected to be absorbed within the resources approved under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the report was to be issued under item 132 of the agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations) and was expected to include proposals for financial and budgetary arrangements. The Advisory Committee will examine those proposals and provide its comments and recommendations in its related report.

6. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General that no additional appropriations are sought over and above the current level of funding of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. It further notes from paragraph 21 of the report that, should the actual requirements exceed the absorptive capacity of the respective sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the bienniums 2012-2013 and 2014-2015. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's approach. It expects that every effort will be made to absorb the additional requirements.**